Title: The Los Angeles County Health Profile

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Detailed local health data can inspire communities and inform investigators to strive collectively towards improved health. The UCLA-CTSI developed the Los Angeles County (LAC) Health Profile, a baseline report describing key indicators of health and health care shaped by community input to identify 'hot spots' of poor health and health disparities in LAC.

Informal interviews with stakeholders from health clinics and systems, community-based organizations, academic-community partnerships and LAC health department were conducted to identify measures that would serve as evidence to shape community plans, health initiatives, local health policies and evaluation of programs. Feedback helped to inform final indicators in six clinical domains: diabetes/obesity, cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease and risk-factors, cancer, addiction, mental health, and HIV.

Using the California Health Interview Survey and hospital discharge and emergency department encounter data from the Office of State Health Planning and Development, we created profiles for the six domains, mapped to LAC's 26 health districts, which comprise 8 Service Planning Areas.

These data were presented at 18 organizations throughout LAC, tailored to the organization's catchment area, and additional indictors of interest. Post-presentation discussions included data limitations and potential reasons for the results. Suggestions for future work included more granular data, expanded data sources (mortality rates and health service provider shortages), comparing age-adjusted rates, and stratifying geographic hospitalization rates by race/ethnicity.

These health profiles generated important questions asking why there is high burden and poor management of disease and disability in some areas and how to develop interventions to address these issues at the local level.